

Application No. 09/461,010

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Attorney Docket No. T3264-906313

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, as amended.

By this amendment, the independent claims have been amended to overcome 35 USC § 112 rejections.

For example, independent claim 20 has been amended to recite searching a storage means for at least one user for which a pair of asymmetric keys in an associated certificate must be created, each user associated with this data as associated with an attribute wherein each attribute is capable of having any one of the following values: pending, in progress, process ended with an error message, process done, sending a creation request and done. Comparable amendments were made to independent claim 29 and 51.

Applicants agree with the Office Action's characterization that Ishii, Smith and Andrews do not explicitly "disclose a subject being a user." However, the Office Action points to Eigeles and in particular columns 3 and 4 of Eigeles for this teaching.

Applicants respectfully disagree and would like to point out that Eigeles specifically defines attribute as "the term "attribute," as used in the present description and any claims appended hereto, refers to any parameter that may influence how and why *to use* a particular certificate and/or cryptographic key." (italics added) In contrast, as recited in, for example, independent claim 20, the attribute relates to the creation status of a pair of asymmetric keys and an associated certificate. In Eigeles, as is seen in columns 3 and 4, the attribute relates to how and why to use a particular certificate and/or cryptographic key that has already been created. Thus, in Eigeles, the certificate and/or cryptographic keys have already been created.

At least based on the above, and the deficiencies as previously pointed out in relation to the remaining references, Applicant's respectfully submit the claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited art.

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With all rejections having been overcome, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary to place this application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T3264-906313) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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